

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 127

Introduced by Assembly Member Leonard

February 15, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 127—Relative to
Charles R. Imbrecht.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 127, as introduced, Leonard. Charles R. Imbrecht.

This measure would commemorate the life of Charles Richard Imbrecht and honor his many professional and personal accomplishments, including his outstanding public service.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Former Assembly Member Charles
2 Richard Imbrecht passed away on January 18, 1999, in
3 Pasadena, California, from a heart attack; and
4 WHEREAS, Charles R. Imbrecht was born in Ventura,
5 California, on February 4, 1949, attended Ventura High
6 School and Occidental College, and went on to receive his
7 law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles; and
8 WHEREAS, His long and distinguished career in public
9 service began in 1974 when he worked as a staff attorney
10 for the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington
11 D.C., but his keen interest in politics led him to return to
12 Ventura two years later to run for election in the 36th
13 State Assembly district; and

1 WHEREAS, Imbrecht ran unopposed in the
2 Republican primary and went on to claim an upset
3 victory in the general election, and was reelected to the
4 Assembly in 1978 and again in 1980; and

5 WHEREAS, As Vice-Chair of the Assembly Committee
6 on Ways and Means, Chuck Imbrecht was the lead
7 Assembly Republican on the budget, and he was
8 responsible for insuring that there were no tax increases,
9 that education received additional funds, and that cities
10 were not required to bail out the state; and

11 WHEREAS, During his tenure, he correctly pointed
12 out that education was not receiving its fair share of
13 revenues and that education was one of the lowest
14 priorities when it came to state spending, and his work in
15 this area set the stage for Proposition 98, which now
16 guarantees a fair share of state expenditures for
17 education; and

18 WHEREAS, Some of Charles Imbrecht's legislative
19 accomplishments include:

20 Authorizing local governments to establish zoning
21 for mobile homes, thus affording elderly and
22 low-income persons an alternative source of housing.

23 Establishing statutory procedures for the
24 disclosure and examination of expert witnesses in
25 litigation, thus encouraging settlement and eliminating
26 undue delay of trials.

27 Establishing grants from the California
28 Environmental Protection Program Fund to counties
29 for the study of computerization of environmental
30 information dealing with natural resources and land
31 use, thus making preparation of environmental impact
32 reports faster and less costly.

33 Creating the Intergenerational Child Care Act of
34 1979 that encouraged the use of senior citizen aides in
35 child care programs, thus enriching the lives of
36 children and utilizing the experience of our seniors.

37 Authorizing the award of joint parental custody of
38 minor children in divorce situations, thus promoting
39 the best interests of a child.



1 Authorizing a minor to consent to mental health
2 treatment on an outpatient basis, without the consent
3 of a parent or guardian, thus helping young people to
4 receive needed treatment.

5 Creating the Ventura County Court Services
6 Consolidation Act of 1980, consolidating the sheriff's
7 and marshall's offices in Ventura County to serve the
8 superior and municipal courts, thus eliminating
9 duplication of services, saving the county over \$1
10 million annually, and serving as a prototype for other
11 counties.

12 Authorizing larger charitable deductions for
13 corporations that donated computers to schools, thus
14 resulting in an Apple computer being placed in every
15 school in the state; and

16
17 WHEREAS, In 1981, Charles Imbrecht was named as
18 one of the "Five Outstanding Young Men of California"
19 by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of California; and

20 WHEREAS, He was the recipient of the Ventura
21 Business and Professional Women's Club "Top Hat
22 Award" for his efforts in providing equal opportunities for
23 working women; and

24 WHEREAS, The California Journal assessed the
25 relative effectiveness of Members of the Assembly and
26 categorized Imbrecht as one of the eight "patriarchs of
27 the Assembly—the uncontested leaders ... who have the
28 reins of power in the lower house"; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1982, Charles Imbrecht was named by
30 the Los Angeles Herald Examiner as one of the "Five
31 Most Effective Legislators" in both houses of the State
32 Legislature; and

33 WHEREAS, Charles R. Imbrecht was appointed Chair
34 of the California Energy Commission by Governors
35 George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson; and served in that
36 capacity from 1983 through 1997; and

37 WHEREAS, While serving on the Energy Commission,
38 Chuck initiated the deregulation of electrical service, and
39 encouraged the use of alternative energy sources for
40 electricity and alternative transportation fuels; and

1 WHEREAS, Chuck participated in establishing the
2 federal standards for consumer products which became
3 the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987,
4 which was based on the standards developed by the
5 California Energy Commission; and

6 WHEREAS, Under his tutelage in the 1980s, new
7 efficiency regulations for buildings and appliances, such
8 as refrigerators and air conditioners, were adopted that
9 have saved Californians billions of dollars and were the
10 first in the nation, and are credited with saving over \$1.4
11 billion in 1998, equivalent to the electricity generated by
12 five nuclear plants; and

13 WHEREAS, He also took an active role in drafting a
14 subsequent bill that included standards for commercial
15 appliances and became the Energy Policy Act of 1992; the
16 standards followed very closely those that had been
17 developed by the California Energy Commission under
18 Chuck's leadership; and

19 WHEREAS, Under his leadership the commission
20 developed efficiency standards for windows and required
21 them to be labeled; new standards were also created for
22 refrigerators and clothes washers that are expected to be
23 adopted by the United States Department of Energy in
24 the next few months; and

25 WHEREAS, Chuck's determination to open the public
26 process, seeking additional industry participation with
27 lengthy discussion of issues, allowed for a better
28 understanding of the positions of interested parties and
29 achieved a balance between environmental and business
30 interests; and

31 WHEREAS, Chuck provided leadership in the area of
32 nuclear waste transportation, so that California agencies
33 involved with different aspects of nuclear waste
34 transportation had a common understanding of
35 California's interests and major issues; and

36 WHEREAS, He represented California on various
37 regional and federal groups in planning for the
38 transportation and disposal of nuclear waste, including
39 the Western Governors' Association Transport Advisory
40 Group for Nuclear Waste Shipments and the Western

1 Interstate Energy Board, and was appointed by
2 Governors Deukmejian and Wilson to be the State
3 Liaison Officer representing California before the
4 Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

5 WHEREAS, Chuck was instrumental in the
6 formulation and development of a model for the nuclear
7 waste transportation program and policies for large
8 quantity federal nuclear waste shipments in the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, Chuck assisted Malaysia's national electric
11 utility in developing a national energy efficiency plan and
12 undertaking demonstration projects to introduce
13 efficient lighting, variable speed motors, and
14 cogeneration in commercial buildings and factories, and
15 as a result of these efforts, California energy businesses
16 will reap a \$500,000,000 market for equipment and sales
17 and service contracts in Malaysia over the next four years;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Energy Commission under Chuck
20 Imbrecht's leadership ensured that California's
21 electricity supply needs would be met by adding a third
22 major transmission line from the Pacific northwest, by
23 focusing on the dispute between investor-owned and
24 municipal utilities over access to inexpensive power from
25 the northwest, and by spearheading negotiations leading
26 to the construction of the California-Oregon transmission
27 project which increased California's access to surplus and
28 cheaper hydroelectric energy resulting in lower energy
29 costs; and

30 WHEREAS, As a result of Chuck Imbrecht's vision, the
31 Energy Commission was the first agency to advocate a
32 "let the market decide" policy for determining the need
33 for additional natural gas pipelines, developing
34 sophisticated computer analyses of natural gas supply and
35 demand for the entire North American continent to
36 evaluate the effect on prices to the consumer if new
37 pipelines, with the ability to transport natural gas well in
38 excess of projected needs, were built; and these analyses
39 proved that the greatest benefit to consumers would



1 occur if all the proposed pipelines were built and allowed
2 to compete for market share; and

3 WHEREAS, His novel analytical approach, which
4 rejected the traditional view that pipeline capacity
5 should be limited to projected demand, was a major step
6 toward introducing competition into California's natural
7 gas market, and this change in regulatory philosophy
8 fostered competition among gas suppliers and shippers
9 for the opportunity to serve California's needs, resulting
10 in the construction of three additional major pipelines to
11 transport supplies from outside California to satisfy the
12 state's natural gas requirements, lowering the price of
13 natural gas from all supply sources, and saving California
14 consumers an amount that is expected to cumulatively
15 exceed \$5.8 billion by the year 2015, when compared to
16 what consumers would have paid for natural gas if
17 traditional regulatory ideas had been followed; this policy
18 also allowed natural gas to become a primary fuel for new
19 power plants as well as fuel for use in the state's old fleet
20 of plants, which greatly reduced air pollutant emissions in
21 California; and

22 WHEREAS, Since 1988, during his tenure, the Energy
23 Commission's Safe School Bus Demonstration Program
24 has replaced 826 pre-1977 buses with new safer
25 schoolbuses in 128 school district fleets, with half of these
26 new buses powered by fuels other than gasoline or diesel;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Chuck Imbrecht acquired millions of
29 dollars of Petroleum Violation Escrow Account funds in
30 1986 to begin the largest test and demonstration of
31 alternative fuels in light-duty vehicles, heavy-duty diesel
32 engines, schoolbuses, passenger vans, and fuel supply
33 infrastructure in the nation and, with these funds, helped
34 underwrite the differential costs of thousands of
35 cleaner-burning vehicles that improved air quality and
36 reduced California's near 100 percent reliance on
37 petroleum in the transportation sector; and

38 WHEREAS, Chuck's belief in and support of
39 alternative transportation fuels led to the creation of the
40 statewide Drive Clean California campaign in 1992, and



1 he enlisted air quality agencies, auto manufacturers, and
2 fuel suppliers to help the Energy Commission and
3 Governor Pete Wilson promote the use of alternative fuel
4 vehicles and fuels in California fleets, resulting in more
5 than 7,000 methanol, natural gas, and electric vehicles
6 being purchased and demonstrated in fleets throughout
7 the state over a five-year period, to provide the real world
8 operational data necessary for the California Air
9 Resources Board to confidently develop its low emission
10 vehicle regulations; and

11 WHEREAS, Chuck promoted the development of
12 renewable resources in California, and renewable
13 resources now provide 13 percent of California's energy
14 mix and represent an \$18 billion industry that supports
15 15,000 jobs in the state; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1992 he received the Commission of the
17 European Community International Augustine Mouchot
18 Prize for his leadership in alternative energy
19 development; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1996 he was honored with the Charles
21 Percy Award in Washington D.C. for his contribution in
22 the energy field; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1998 and 1999, Imbrecht served as vice
24 president and general counsel to CAL-Start, a
25 Pasadena-based nonprofit consortium of more than 200
26 companies dedicated to the development of improved
27 transportation technology; and

28 WHEREAS, Chuck was an avid swimmer, skier, and
29 boater; he spent time every summer at Lake Tahoe; and
30 he loved to travel; and

31 WHEREAS, Charles is survived by his wife of 20 years,
32 Alida Bergseid Imbrecht, daughters Erica, 12, and Emily,
33 8, his mother Hazel, and numerous aunts, uncles, and
34 cousins; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
36 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature
37 commemorates the life of Charles Richard Imbrecht, and
38 honors his many professional and personal
39 accomplishments, including his outstanding public
40 service; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
2 transmit copies of this resolution to Chuck's wife Alida,
3 daughters Erica and Emily, and his mother Hazel
4 Imbrecht of Ventura, California.

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